Table 1

Characteristics of Fowler's Six Stages of Faith
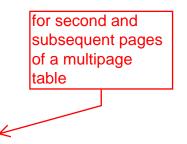
Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6
Intuitive-Projective Faith	**Mythic-Literal Faith**	**Synthetic-Conventional Faith**	**Individuative-Reflective Faith**	**Conjunctive Faith**	**Universalizing Faith**
Fantasy filled	Takes on stories and beliefs that symbolize belonging to community	Expands world beyond family *We are all in this together.* Authority is located externally to self	Seriously takes burden of responsibility, commitment, and beliefs *Helping others as you go along the way.*	Grasps the inter-relatedness of one's reality *We help each other to do the best that we can.*	Appreciates truth in all forms
Imitative	Increased accuracy of perceptions	Group-oriented stage	Development of one's self and outlook *Life--it is how you live it and realize we're here to enjoy it.*	Symbolic power is reunited with conceptual meaning	Strives to be an incarnation of truth
Influenced by primally related adults *My family is my first concern.*	Develop reciprocal relationships *We are a cohesive group of staff, parents, and students.*	Beliefs and norms of significant others are more influential than in any other stage	Individualistic stage	Critical recognition of one's social unconscious: myths, ideal images, and prejudices deep in the self-system of social class, religious tradition, ethnic group *We have a society that is losing vision of what is central; we need a moral center.*	Radical action based upon belief *We have a moral that is so skewed. . . . we must not forget what we are all about and begin to get along and interact.*
Organizes life through images *Describes building by demographics.*	Sort out real from make believe	Able to reflect on own thoughts and ways of experiencing *This is where I come from--I have a center.*	Symbols and stories analyzed objectively for the first time	Sees both sides of an issue	Faith compositi[on] sense of ultimat[e] environment inc[luding] all being

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Table 1 (continued)

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6
Intuitive-Projective Faith	**Mythic-Literal Faith**	**Synthetic-Conventional Faith**	**Individuative-Reflective Faith**	**Conjunctive Faith**	**Universalizing Faith**
Endless "what"	Insist on proof or demonstration for claims of fact	Mentally step outside the flow of life stream	Critical distancing from previous value system	Focuses on the inter-relatedness in things ***What keeps me on the path is a love of life, family, and job.***	Radical commitment to justice and love
	Imagination confined to world of play	Experience extends to peers, school, work, media, street society, family, and religion ***Help each other and do the best we can.***	Relocate authority to within one's self ***I have a center ... OK.*** Identity shaped in relation to groups	Must come to terms with own unconscious Understands conscious ego is not master over self	Selfless passion for a transformed world in accordance with an intentional both divine & transcendent
	Able to construct perspective of others ***My interpretation of my staff is that we all work together.***	Faith development serves as focus to commitment/values ***I consider myself Christian and that keeps my moral center.***	Develop allegiances to groups which substitute for family groups	Faith known through stories, symbols, and traditions; is limited by previous experience with God and is incomplete ***There is a belief system that there is something beyond.***	People like Gandhi, Dag Hammerskjőld, Dietrich Bonhoeffer
	Meanings expressed in stories	Symbols are tied to their meaning	Self-identity and worldly outlook shape judgments and interpretations	Appreciates symbols, myths, and rituals because grasps depth of reality to which they refer ***Related a story from the Discovery Channel; kids need to learn who they are.***	